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**BENNETT PLACE
REBUILT 1961 (NR)
(STATE HISTORIC SITE)**

Jct. SRs 1313 and 1314, Durham vicinity



On April 26, 1865, Union General William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston met under a flag of truce midway between Durham and Hillsborough to reach an agreement under which 89,270 Confederate soldiers would lay down their arms to end the Civil War in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Accompanied by staff officers, Sherman rode west from Durham and Johnston east from Hillsborough. The flag that Johnston carried was improvised from a white shirt belonging to Alexander Dickson, his Hillsborough host. When the two generals met, Sherman inquired where the two could go for privacy; he recorded the following account in his *Memoirs*: "General Johnston said he had passed a small farm house a short distance back, and we rode back to it side by side, our staff officers and escorts following. . . We soon reached the house of a Mr. Bennett, dismounted, and left our horses with orderlies in the road. Our officers on foot passed into the yard, and General Johnston and I entered the small farmhouse. I asked the farmer if we could have the use of his house for a few minutes, and he and his wife withdrew into a small log house, which stood close by." Before the two generals began negotiations, Sherman showed Johnston a telegram he had received from Washington just before coming to meet him. It announced the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Sherman and Johnston conferred on three separate occasions at the small house belonging to James and Nancy Bennett before the surrender was completed. Although they had opposed

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each other in battle, they became fast friends and in 1891, Johnston contracted pneumonia while serving as an honorary pallbearer at Sherman's funeral. He refused to cover his head on that rainy afternoon, saying he felt Sherman would have remained bareheaded out of respect for him. Ten days later Johnston died.

The Bennett house fell into disrepair in the early years of the 20th century, and pieces of the dwelling were carried away for souvenirs before the family of Samuel Tate Morgan made a gift of the Bennett Place to the State of North Carolina. An attempt was made to save the structure by constructing a frame barn around it but both buildings burned in 1921, leaving only a fieldstone chimney standing. The Morgan gift included sufficient funds to erect a monument to the reunion of the North and the South but many feared that it would actually commemorate the defeat of the Confederacy. Consequently, the unity monument was approved by the General Assembly in 1923, several years after the destruction of the Bennett house by a fire thought to have been caused by sparks from a locomotive passing nearby. In 1958, Mrs. Magruder Dent made a substantial gift which, with the use of materials given by Frank Kenan from an old house of the same approximate age and size, made the restoration of the Bennett house possible. From Civil War period sketches and photographs, the farmhouse was reconstructed as a one-story, gable-roofed, weatherboarded log structure with a rear shed addition. Its original chimney was saved, and stands on the north side of the house protected by an extension of the roof. A one-room interior, furnished to approximate its appearance in sketches of the surrender negotiations, opens onto two rooms in the shed, one is furnished as a bedroom of the period, and the other is a space for interpretive display. With its log kitchen and smokehouse, the Bennett farm is representative of hundreds that dotted the North Carolina Piedmont in the first half of the 19th century.

CHISENHALL STORE

1935

US 501, Lebanon vicinity



Ella Chisenhall began a family enterprise in 1935 when she built this frame, gable-roofed, box and canopy store with money inherited from her parents. When the structure was completed, her husband, Herbert, gave her one-half acre of land surrounding it. The couple's oldest son, Clarence, ran the store for a number of years, selling groceries and gas. Another entrepreneur built a garage at the back of the store that was eventually converted to a four-room dwelling where later shopkeepers Andrew Aiken and Frank Hogan, a Chisenhall son-in-law, lived with their families. In the mid-1950s when the widening of US 501 required that the store be moved out of the right-of-way to its present location, the garage-turned-dwelling was demolished. After its move, the store was not reopened, and Vernon Chisenhall, the owner at that time, used the building for storage.

JOHN THOMAS COUCH FARM

CA 1900 (SL)

SR 1309, Durham vicinity



A Queen Anne window with a colorful border of red and blue glass squares is a lively token of fashion on the entry door of the substantial frame tri-gable I-house built by John Thomas Couch ca. 1900. Set well back from the road on 17.5 acres of the original 130-acre farm, the house has the six-over-six sash windows, rear brick chimneys, full-length front porch with chamfered posts, and one-story rear ell that are found on many turn of the 20th century Durham County farmhouses. Two generations of the Couch family have kept the house in excellent condition; the only major exterior change has been the addition of aluminum siding. The interior center hall floor plan is intact, and the original staircase, mantels, and several doors are in place. Behind the house there are several small barns and sheds from the 1920s and 1930s and a potato house from the 1940s.

COX-POPE FARM COMPLEX

CA. 1880-1938

COX-POPE HOUSE

CA. 1880-1980

JOHN EMERSON POPE HOUSE

1916-17

JAMES DENNIS POPE HOUSE

1938

US 501, Orange Factory vicinity



A. G. Cox, superintendent of the cotton mill at Orange Factory purchased a portion of the Lipscombe Plantation in the 1880s and constructed a frame tri-gable I-house with Gothic Revival detailing. A low roof with bargeboard decoration on the eaves, a wide and prominent center gable with an oversized window, a single end chimney, and a unique wrap-around porch that has a latticed railing of steel bands from cotton bales distinguish the dwelling from its late-19th century contemporaries, and it is the only dwelling remaining in Durham County that closely emulates examples illustrated in Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences*. In 1887, shortly after the farmhouse was completed, Issac Emerson, inventor of Bromo Seltzer, purchased it and 162 acres of land for his sister, Anna. With her husband, Jack Pope, she moved her family to the country to avoid an epidemic of measles in the town of Durham, eventually adding a short two-story rear ell and a tenant house and log barn nearby. Since

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Anna and Jack, three subsequent generations of the Pope family have lived in the house. A daughter-in-law enlarged the dwelling in the mid-20th century with an extensive ell and one-story tri-gable wing, and a great-granddaughter and her husband have recently enlarged the kitchen area and added a breezeway and garage. The interior of the main block has a center-hall plan and many original features remaining; post and lintel mantels are in place, the staircase has a square newel and turned balusters, and walls are plastered over wainscoting or sheathed with wide boards.

Over the past 100 years, the Popes' descendants have improved the farm, constructing dwellings in popular styles of their particular times and adding many outbuildings. They have thus created an important built record of the preferences of prosperous Durham County farmers during that period. South of the farmhouse, a son, James Dennis Pope built a frame pyramidal cottage with a hip roof porch and interior chimneys as his residence in 1916, and an extensive complex of dairy and tobacco barns

and dependencies in the 1920s on the farm. In turn, his son, James Emerson Pope, added a dwelling south of his fathers, building in 1938 a brick Tudor Revival cottage with a gabled and arcaded entry porch and chimney off-center on the front facade. He modernized selected farm buildings, and constructed several storage sheds and a fine barn for his Tennessee Walking horses. In the 1960s and 70s, his daughters, Anna Andrews and Charlotte Tippet, with their husbands, constructed brick Ranch houses at the northern edge of the farm.

CROASDAILE FARM BUILDINGS EARLY 20TH CENTURY (SL)

Near SR 1407, Durham vicinity



Raised on a farm in Duplin County, John Sprunt Hill earned recognition as the “Father of Rural Credits in North Carolina” for his promotion of legislation to provide better financing and marketing opportunities for farmers. In 1916, Hill was instrumental in the establishment of the State’s first farm credit union; it was located at Lowe’s Grove in southern Durham County.

In the early 20th century, banker-philanthropist John Sprunt Hill established four centers for specialty farming within his 1,050-acre Croasdaile Farm then on the outskirts of Durham. These unique centers were variously devoted to chickens, hogs, and dairy cattle husbandry, and at each, Hill constructed a tenant-manager’s house and farm buildings appropriate to that specialty’s particular functions. The first center, located near the eastern edge of the farm, was constructed around 1915 primarily for the raising of hogs. Though the manager’s house was demolished in the 1990s, a full complement of early 20th century frame outbuildings remains that includes a garage, a pack house, two barns, an equipment shed, a corn crib, and a remarkable three-room smokehouse with two exterior end chimneys.



West of the hog farm on a knoll is the former Croasdaile Dairy center. Here a side-gable frame I-house with one exterior end chimney, six-over-six sash windows, and a full-length front porch, was constructed as a manager’s quarters in 1915. In the 1930s, Hill commissioned architect Archie Davis to design three handsome barns for his prize Guernsey cattle and an office for the dairy operations behind the house. The spacious, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed milking barn with its tile silo, two smaller gambrel-roofed barns for cows with newborn calves and bulls, and a brick Colonial Revival-

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style farm office with a sterilizing room were built from Davis's plans. As dairy operations grew, additional buildings and silos were added in the mid-20th century.

A second center, at the western edge of the farm, was established about 1925 for raising chickens and egg production. A one-story tri-gable frame house with a bracketed front porch, exterior gable end brick chimneys, and two rear ells served as a manager's house in that location. Behind and to the south of it are several long rectangular chicken houses and a corn crib built on wooden runners to expedite moving it about as needed.

Today Croasdaile Farm is the site of an elegant subdivision of the same name. While development was underway, Hill's granddaughter, Susan Beischer, kept a herd of Angus cattle on a portion of the farm.

GALVESTON CA. 1850

US 501, Lebanon vicinity



Named for a post office once housed within its walls, Galveston grew in several stages according to the needs of its occupants. A two-story, antebellum, side-gable I-house with restrained Greek Revival detailing was enlarged in the late 19th century when a one-story gable-roofed ell was constructed for the post office and joined to the main block by a breezeway. At about the same time, a decorative central gable and a wrap-around porch were added. In the 20th century, the breezeway was enclosed, and the house was expanded by a shed addition to the original ell and a new gable-roofed kitchen wing.

Galveston was once part of the thousand-acre Lipscombe plantation located between the Eno and Little Rivers. When Will Lipscombe and Rebecca Lipscombe Russell inherited the plantation and several houses from their father, John D. Lipscombe, they sold this dwelling along with 213 acres of land to Sarah Whitledge Cole and Mary W. Holeman in 1878. Two years later, Mrs. Cole bought out Mrs. Holeman's ownership, and the house has subsequently remained with Mrs. Cole's descendants though much of the land has been sold. Her great grandson, Edward E. Cooke, former chairman of the Durham County Historic Properties Commission, acquired the property in 1997.

The Galveston Post Office was established in December 1888, with Mrs. Cole's son, William, as its first postmaster. The name "Sylvan" was requested since the post office was located in what was then called the "Mt. Sylvan" settlement. The postmaster rejected that name, stating in his letter that a "Sylva" Post Office already existed in North Carolina. The name, "Galveston," was approved instead, but its origins have been lost. After William Cole, George Flintom became postmaster in 1889, and Henry Pope in 1899. Pope moved the Galveston Post Office to his own farm nearby and it ceased operations in 1902.

ISAAC M. GARRARD HOUSE

CA. 1922

SR1404, Lebanon vicinity



Isaac M. Garrard (1889-1976), and his wife, Lonie Sanford (1890-1982), built this residence in 1922. The Garrards had four children. Their oldest son, Joseph W., started the Garrard Sausage business in Durham County. Isaac Garrard sold the house to his son Robert in 1967.



This frame dwelling represents a rural derivative of the American Foursquare style popular in nearby Durham early in the 20th century. Among its characteristic features is the massive cubical appearance of the double pile main block, the hipped roof central dormer located directly above the main entrance, and the corbelled brick interior chimneys flanking the roof ridge. A full-width front porch supported by tapered square columns wraps around one end of the main block. At the opposite end, a gable-roofed ell is attached to the rear. Windows consist of nine-over-one double-hung sash on the first and second floor. The ones fitted to the dormer, however, exhibit many narrow vertical panes, a decorative theme which continues that theme established by the sixteen-pane transom over the side-lighted entrance door. The single-leaf door itself incorporates three rows of three panes while the flanking sidelights both consist of three two-pane rows.

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Within the structure, light finishes on plank and plastered walls contrast highly with dark varnished woodwork. The flat horizontal panels of the entrance, while painted white on the outside, exhibit a dark finish in the central hall. Other doors display five raised horizontal panels; they are set in molded post and lintel frames. Mantels also continue the post and lintel



theme, ornamented only by the inclusion of curved brackets. The stairs rise toward the front of the house from a landing at the rear of the central hall. White painted square balusters support the molded handrail, which is varnished, as are the square newels.

The collection of outbuildings includes both log and frame examples. A one-and-one-half story three-bay barn is extended by sheds front and rear and along one side. A small gabled garage and tractor shed has extra storage included within a shed-roofed addition. Several other frame smokehouses are associated with the beginnings of the family pork curing business, which continues in the large modern sausage factory located nearby. Older log structures have both saddle and v-notched comers.

HARDSCRABBLE
LATE 18TH, EARLY 19TH CENTURY (NR)
DURHAM COUNTY LANDMARK
SR 1002, Lebanon vicinity



At the plantation he called Pleasant Grove, William Cain constructed one of the most interesting dwellings in North Carolina for it displays clearly two stylistic periods of construction around the turn of the 19th century. The dwelling consists of two handsome two-story frame houses: an early 19th century Georgian-style house and a Georgian-Federal transitional-style house built shortly afterward and directly behind the first one. The two houses were connected by a breezeway that was enlarged and enclosed in the late 19th century when a prominent cross-gable roof (now removed) was built over the entire structure.

Correspondence from master builders Martin Palmer and Samuel Hopkins of Hillsborough suggests that both men constructed portions of the Georgian-style house during the 1790s. Facing south toward what is now St. Mary's Road, it is a two-story structure of five bays with a gable roof standing over a full stone basement, and covered with molded weatherboards secured by hand-made nails. There are two front entrances; a center raised-panel door is the primary entrance and a smaller entrance is located to its right. Windows with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine on the second are flanked by raised panel shutters held in place by HL hinges. Double-shouldered chimneys on gable ends are of Flemish-bond brick with glazed headers aligned to form chevrons at the shoulders.

The Georgian-style house originally followed a three-room plan, an arrangement of three unequal-size rooms widely employed in the Piedmont and favored by William Penn who observed its prevalence among Quakers in Pennsylvania. At Pleasant Grove a large multipurpose hall or living room filled approximately one half of the interior and the remaining space was divided into two smaller rooms, a parlor and a chamber. In the later 19th century, the hall was partitioned to create a center passage.

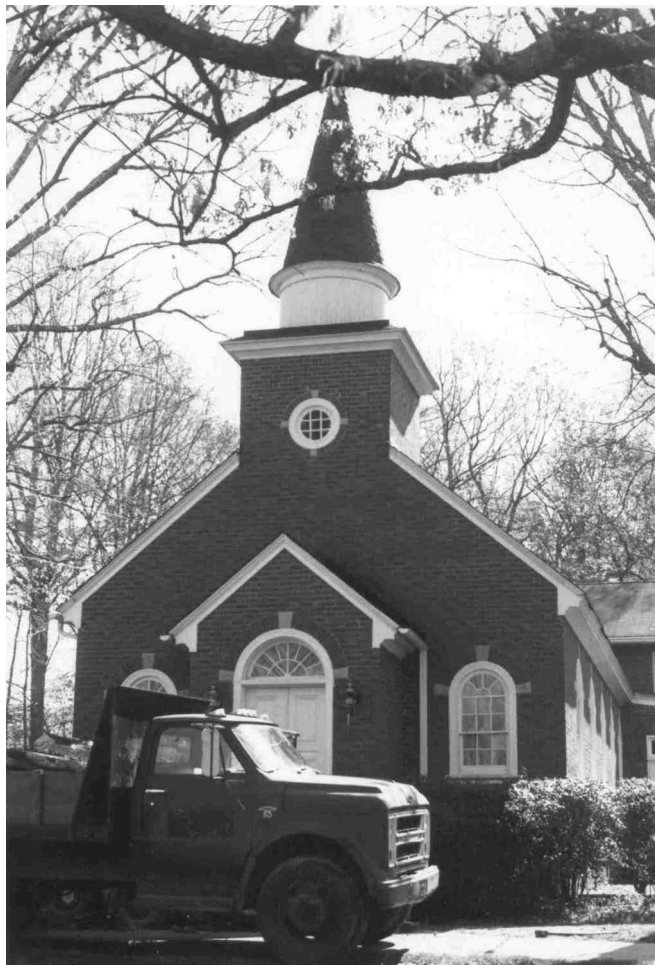
On the interior of the Georgian-style house, woodwork is typically robust and heavy: large doors are six-paneled, hung on HL hinges and set in three-part molded frames; wainscoting has flat panels and is surmounted by molded chair rail; mantels are paneled; and an open stair, rebuilt in the 19th century, has stout plain newels and turned balusters. A wide-arched mantel with a boldly paneled overmantel is found in the parlor.

Stylistic features suggest that the transitional-style house was likely constructed between 1810 and 1820. It is similar in shape and size to the earlier house but it faces north, is shallower in depth, and has only three bays on the main facade. Here, too, weatherboard siding is molded, and windows are nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash on the second. Like the earlier house, each gable end has a chimney, but instead of the massive double-shouldered chimneys of the Georgian style, these are smaller, single-shouldered, chimneys with decorative brickwork. The chimney on the east facade has graceful convex shoulders and glazed headers arranged in a curved chevron, while the chimney on the west facade has straight shoulders and glazed headers that form a double-diamond pattern.

A planter and a politician, William Cain was a member of the General Assembly and a donor to the University of North Carolina. In 1834, his son, William II, inherited Pleasant Grove, and in 1857, his grandson, Dr. James F. Cain, became its owner. Dr. Cain is believed to have given the plantation its present name, "Hardscrabble," to describe harsh conditions during or after the Civil War. Financial difficulties later forced Dr. Cain to sell, and his son purchased the property at a bankruptcy auction in 1888. After the Cains, Hardscrabble passed through a series of owners and deteriorated before it was restored in the early 1990s to approximate its early 19th century appearance.

HILLANDALE SCHOOL
CA. 1920
MT. BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1941
RURAL CROSSROADS

Jct. SRs 1404 & 1401, Durham vicinity



Rural crossroads are often locations of community commerce and services. In a typical pattern, two important community institutions, the former Hillandale School, a small frame schoolhouse of about 1920, and the Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church, a Colonial Revival-style brick edifice constructed in 1941, were located at the intersection of Rose of Sharon and Cole Mill Roads. Near today's bustling Interstate Highway 85, they evoke memories of quieter times in Durham County.

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The former Hillandale School is a nine-bay, one-story building with a side gable roof, two interior chimneys, and two front doors beneath a recessed front porch. There are six-over-six sash windows on the entry facade and bands of nine-over-nine sash windows on the rear that undoubtedly provided the major illumination for the school's two classrooms. In 1929 the Hillandale School had four grades. Two grades were taught simultaneously in each classroom, the first and second by Mrs. Jefferson Riley who was also the school's principal, and the third and fourth by Mrs. Jenkins. In 1931, when classes were moved to a new Hillandale School building on Carver Street (now demolished), Mrs. Riley and her husband bought the frame schoolhouse and renovated it as two apartments. Refurbished again recently, the school is now residential quarters for the neighboring Rice House.

When the congregation of the Mt. Bethel Church organized in 1937, they met in the vacant Amos Grocery store (now demolished) across the road from their present sanctuary until it was completed in 1941. The entry facade of the first church was retained when the sanctuary was enlarged and renovated in 1987.

KINCHEN HOLLOWAY HOUSE

CA. 1870 (SL)

SR 1003, Durham vicinity



One of three 19th century miller's houses surviving along the Eno River in Durham County, this well-preserved side-gable frame I-house was built on the north side of the river for Kinchen Holloway, miller of the Guess Mill. The house is typical of the substantial but plain postbellum farmhouses of Durham County with weatherboard siding, six-over-six windows, exterior end chimneys of fieldstone and brick. Wide hand-planed paneling and wainscoting found only in the northernmost parlor and the contiguous rear kitchen ell suggests that the house began as a one-story antebellum dwelling and was enlarged by Holloway when he purchased the property on which it stands in 1870. Window and door trim is plain, and the one-bay front porch is a replacement added by Drs. Howard and Eleanor Easley in the early 1940s. Recent owners have eliminated an interior wall on the first floor thus modifying the original center-hall plan to create a traditional hall-parlor plan.

Built by William Guess in 1848, the Guess Mill (now demolished) was located on the south side of the river. Guess was bankrupt at the end of the Civil War, and the mill was taken over by Fred Geer in 1874 some years after Kinchen Holloway became its miller. Holloway's daughter, Ida Inez Roberts recalled that she, or one of five sisters and six brothers, would bring the coarse-ground flour or "seconds" home from the mill to their mother.

DR. EDWIN HOLT HOUSE

CA. 1880

SR 1628, Orange Factory vicinity



Notable for a two-tiered full-facade porch with an unusual sawn work balustrade on the upper level, the Dr. Edwin Holt House is a side-gable frame I-house with modest Greek Revival detailing. While the six-over-six windows with plain surrounds and boxed cornice with gable-end returns are typical of many Durham County residences of the mid- to late 19th century, the exterior chimney placement at the rear of a house is generally a late 19th century stylistic modification. The house appears on the 1887 Johnston Map where it is identified simply as "Dr. Holt's."



A kitchen house joined to the main block in the early 20th century created an unusually long one-story rear ell. Other alterations have included enclosing a porch on the ell, adding a small rear shed at the juncture of the ell and the main block, and bricking over interior fireplaces for stoves. The property has a number of agricultural outbuildings including a barn, a large pack house, a tobacco barn, and several sheds.

Dr. Edwin Holt served in the Confederate Army as surgeon for Company B of the Sixth North Carolina Regiment.¹ Organized as the Flat River Guards before hostilities began, the Sixth Regiment saw action at

¹ Anderson, Jean B., *Durham County*, 1990, Durham and London, Duke University Press, p. 116.

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Manassas where Holt attended many of the wounded. After the war he returned to the Durham area to practice medicine, and was the first doctor to provide regular services for Orange Factory workers. Dr. Holt married sisters of the Parker family, and descendants report that by outliving both wives, he inherited land on one side of the Orange Factory Road from the first, and on the other side from the second.

GILES LATTA HOUSE

1875 WITH CA. 1830 COMPONENTS, 1940

SR 1453, Durham vicinity



According to owner, E. L. Terry, the main block of the Giles Latta House, a frame, two-story, gable-roofed structure with a large fieldstone and brick end chimney, and a side passage plan was constructed in 1875 and added to an antebellum one-room structure with simple Greek Revival details that is now a part of the rear ell. At first glance, the main block is deceiving as to the period of its construction, architectural components such as nine-over-six windows on the second floor, wide, hand-planed sheathing, and a large paneled mantel in the front parlor were removed from the 1830 Anderson Latta House (later demolished) and incorporated. Concurrently, a log kitchen house from the Anderson Latta farm was moved and reconstructed east of the dwelling. When a one-room addition was made to the ell in 1940, this structure was joined to the house by a narrow breezeway. Also in 1940, the main block was enlarged by a one-story gable-roofed wing on the south facade, a window opening on the first floor of the front facade was reconfigured to include a pair of six-over-six sash to match an identical pair on the wing, German siding was installed to cover most of the main block, and a hip-roofed front porch was expanded along the wing.

Around the Giles Latta House, an extensive collection of late 19th and early 20th century farm buildings has survived. Most remarkable is a large double crib barn made of v-notched logs. Other outbuildings include a v-notched log corncrib, a frame corncrib, a smokehouse, a granary, a wood shed, a garage, a workshop, a potato house, a tobacco barn, and a shingle and frame well enclosure constructed in 1911. In front of the dwelling, two large oak trees have grown around a cedar hitching post installed between them in the late nineteenth century.

LIPSCOMBE HOUSE

LATE 18TH, EARLY 19TH, AND EARLY AND MID-20TH CENTURIES

Jct. SR 1002 and US 501, Lebanon vicinity



In 1755, Joseph Brittain was granted over a thousand acres from John, Earl Granville. The land passed from Brittain to William Cain (or Caine), and that gentleman's daughter married Edward Davis, who acquired the land, and perhaps a house, along with his bride. In 1834, Davis sold the property to someone with the surname Lipscombe. The purchaser was probably John D. Lipscombe, a wealthy planter and a brief partner (1856-57) in Durham territory's first textile industry, the Alpha Woolen Mills. Around 1835, Lipscombe constructed the stately side-gable I-house with Federal-style ornamentation that forms the main block of this large and



rambling structure, and he joined it to an earlier two-story dwelling that is now a rear ell. Though 20th century additions and alterations have obscured much of the earliest house, a hall-parlor plan, a narrow enclosed stair, and a paneled mantel with a heavy molded shelf in an upstairs bedroom are evidence of its existence.

The main block has exceptional Federal-style interior woodwork. Fine flat-paneled wainscoting and reeded three-part mantels are to be found in every room excepting the west-facing upstairs bedroom where a

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Colonial Revival-style mantel with Corinthian columns and a mirrored overmantel was installed in the early 20th century.

Early and mid-20th century additions surround the main block and early ell. A one-story wing on the east, a two-story wing on the west that includes an enclosed porch, a large rectangular one-story shed that covers the rear facade, and a colossal portico added to the front facade have altered the appearance of the house considerably. Windows, with the exception of a fanlight over the front door, are mid-20th century replacements, and recently the entire house has been covered with artificial siding.

Interior renovations to the main block have been less extensive, though on the first floor, the center hall plan has been modified by the removal of a wall, and oak flooring has been substituted for pine flooring. The second floor retains more original features; its center hall plan and wide-board pine flooring have been retained. A boxed stair ascends to the attic where heavy timber framing with mortise and tenon joints and wooden shingles from an early roof can be seen.



do it.

In the late 1980s, the Lipscombe House became the Arrowhead Bed and Breakfast Inn, named for a stone arrowhead at the corner of Roxboro and Mason Roads, which marks the Indian Trading Path. To accommodate guests, a carriage house west of the main house was enlarged and a log cabin constructed behind it. A cemetery on a neighboring property is said to contain the hand of John D. Lipscombe who reportedly amputated it himself after an infection set in and a doctor refused to

LYON-BELVIN HOUSE 1825, 1896, 1936 (SL)

SR 1118, Durham vicinity



An intriguing inscription on the floor of a 20th century well house documents the history of a much-renovated frame I-house that was the antebellum home of William J. Duke, older brother of tobacco magnate, Washington Duke:

Built in 1825 W. J. Duke

Rebuilt in 1896 J. E. Lyon

Rebuilt in 1936 Rosa A. Lyon Belvin

The dwelling's basic form is that of a late 19th century I-house, a two-story gable-roofed structure with fenestration arranged symmetrically in three bays. Rear chimneys with corbelled caps date from the 1896 remodeling but German siding and a classic Georgian Revival entry stoop with an arched pediment are features typical of the 1930s and 40s. The interior follows a center hall plan and retains some late 19th century detailing that includes a Victorian mantel with applied turned colonettes, molded window and door surrounds, and a staircase with turned balusters and a shaped handrail. An unusual one-and-one-half story ell that spans the entire rear facade is of 1930s vintage though its recessed porch was later enclosed. Only the well house and a large frame barn remain from what must have been a larger farmstead.

William J. Duke was best known as a Methodist lay preacher whose booming rendition of the song "Old Ship of Zion" inspired congregations around eastern Orange County. At his death in 1883, the house and a portion of his land came to his daughter, Virginia, who later married J. E. Lyon. Their daughter, Rosa Lyon Belvin, inherited the property before 1936.

MCCOWN-COLE-SPARGER FARM

CA. 1813 AND 1948

SR 1401, Durham vicinity



When John Cabe's fifth daughter, Rachel, married Moses McCown in 1813, Cabe helped the couple settle on the south bank of the Eno River near a site where the water drop was sufficient to power a mill. Rachel and Moses shortly established a mill that operated first as a tilt hammer for forging metal and later as a sawmill and a gristmill for grinding wheat and corn. They also built a home that is believed to have been a four-bay, one and one half-story, gable-roofed frame house with a three-room or Quaker plan. The house is thought to have had paired front entrances; one door served a small entrance hall and the other, a large parlor. A plat of the property showing the locations of the original dwelling and a small kitchen house was made after McCown's death in 1830. In 1874, his children sold the property to John Anderson Cole who is thought to have constructed a two-room frame house near the mill for the use of various workers. Cole is reported to have been struck blind suddenly while working in a field during a thunderstorm. Afterward his brother, Ed, and other family members ran the mill until a devastating flood destroyed it in 1908.

The main dwelling, one of three millers' houses remaining in Durham county, occupies a picturesque setting on a high bluff above the river. It appealed to Samuel Sparger, a wealthy insurance salesman and cosmopolitan historian, who bought with it 48 acres as a retreat and hunting lodge around 1930. Initially Sparger made minor modifications to the house, among them rebuilding the stack of the massive stone fireplace in the living room with white quartz rock. He also added the outbuildings presently on the property, which include a frame one-car garage, a long rectangular frame barn and storage shed, and a log smokehouse, all ca. 1930.

After an illness in his later years, Sparger married his nurse, Florence Wyatt, and in 1948, employed J. G. Jordan of the firm of George F. Hackney, Architects, to reconfigure his hunting lodge for himself and his bride. Jordan retained the Quaker plan, most of the original framing and flooring, and the four bay facade with paired front entrances though double-vertical-panel doors of the Greek Revival style had by that time replaced the first doors. Extensive renovations were made elsewhere: the living room was extended into a one-story gable-roofed wing on the rear facade; windows were replaced and added around the house; the front porch was rebuilt; three gable dormers on the front and a full-length shed-and-gable dormer on the rear were added to the loft; and a staircase was reoriented to access the loft. A diagonal ell containing a study, a dining room, and a kitchen was added to the east facade. Interior finishing such as the wide flush wainscoting and wall sheathing throughout the house and wide-board flooring in the ell were obtained from another 19th century house on the property, and Chestnut paneling was brought from Asheville for the study.¹ In the yard, a larger garage was added, the well was covered, and a rustic octagonal gazebo was built overlooking the river.

In 1964, the property came under the ownership of Holger and Margaret Nygard. The property was preserved essentially as the Spargers had it through the 1990s.

¹ Personal interview with Holger Nygard, 13 September 1996.

MCMANNEN METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SR 1314, Durham vicinity



One of northwest Durham County's oldest congregations was founded in 1870 when a group of worshippers headed by the Reverend John A. McMannen began to meet under the shelter of a large oak tree near this site. In 1878, Henry and Mary Neal donated one acre of land where a frame sanctuary for the McMannen Methodist Church was constructed and a cemetery was established. A contemporary brick structure replaced the first church in 1966, and the cemetery has grown to include approximately 300 gravestones dating from the 1880s to the present. The oldest legible marker is for James W. Neal who died in 1886. Two large brick vaults with



marble headstones inlaid at the ends mark the graves of church benefactors Henry Neal who died in 1897, and Mary H. Neal who died in 1905. Nearby, a marker portraying a pair of tiny shoes on a chair memorializes baby Mary Iris Scoggins who died in 1922.

NEAL FAMILY FARMS
WILLIAM T. NEAL HOUSE
CA. 1890 (SL)
JOHN AND ANNIE LOU NEAL HOUSE
1921 (SL)

SR 1314, Durham vicinity



Since 1833, several generations of the Neal family have farmed land in what is now northwest Durham County. An early family house (demolished ca. 1940) is said to have served as a kitchen after William T. Neal built the present frame tri-gable I-house with its one-story rear ell around 1890. In 1997, eight acres of Neal's once-extensive farm and the house became the property of his grandson, William T. (Billy) Neal, III. A 1920s replacement porch and a covering of artificial siding have modified the house, but its rear brick chimneys and six-over-six sash windows remain. The interior center hall plan is basically intact, and much original woodwork including a stair with a heavy turned newel and turned balusters, and simple mantels have been retained. At the rear of the house are a smokehouse, a buggy and granary building, a wagon shelter, and a barn, all of frame construction.

William Neal and Benjamin Duke of American Tobacco were good friends who swapped tales and tools. Duke encouraged the raising of tobacco, which became Neal's major livelihood, but in the 1920s when Duke sought his land for the Duke Forest, Neal declined to sell. He instead conveyed and bequeathed land to his sons and daughters, who settled near the homeplace with their families.

DURHAM COUNTY HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY

NORTHWEST DURHAM QUADRANT

Directly across the road from the homeplace, Durham contractor Telphor Lawrence built a large and fashionable bungalow for Neal's son, John, and his wife, Annie Lou, in 1921. The bungalow features such characteristic Craftsman details as a deep side-gabled roof that engages a spacious front porch, wood shingled walls, braced eaves, and a side bay window. The younger Neal was for many years principal of the Oak Grove School, but he followed the family custom of raising tobacco as a sideline.



RIVERMONT

1913 (SL)

SR 1402, Durham vicinity



In the vicinity of naturally carbonated springs along Nancy Rhodes Creek near the Eno River, Dr. Robert L. Holloway built a two-and-one-half story, frame, Four Square house to be used as a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1913. Dr. Holloway patterned the sanitarium he called "Rivermont" after similar facilities in New England and upper New York State. The house has a high gable roof with a decorative front gable, wood shingled walls, two-over-two windows, and front and side porches. It was not completed as planned, for doors placed around the house on the second story and attic level at the gable ends were intended to serve balconies that were never built. Contemporary wall and ceiling coverings were installed during a 1960s remodeling, but the interior Four Square plan was retained and mantels and an open corner staircase are original.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, mineral water was considered beneficial to those afflicted with lung and kidney diseases. In 1919, a testimonial given by I. E. Harris of Creedmoor, NC, praised the healing qualities of Rivermont water: "I was [a] sufferer of chronic Bright's Disease. I consulted some of the best medical talent this country affords. I was also treated at some of the leading hospitals of America. I made very little improvement. In fact my physicians pronounced my case a hopeless one and advised me that I had just as well go home and be with my family until the end. Upon my arrival at home, my family physician called in Dr. Manning of Durham, NC, who advised me to drink Rivermont Carbonated Spring Water.... Before I had drunk five gallons I was improving and I continued to drink this water for the last three years.

DURHAM COUNTY HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY

NORTHWEST DURHAM QUADRANT

When I began drinking this water I weighed about 95 pounds, today I weigh 135 pounds, my usual weight, and as far as I know I am perfectly well. I believe this water saved my life.”¹

South of the sanitarium, Dr. Holloway constructed three small buildings to bottle Rivermont Spring water. Two of these structures are square, hip-roofed, fieldstone springhouses, and the third is a rectangular, hip-roofed, frame house that contained bottling equipment. Other outbuildings on the property are a frame barn and a frame pigeon house. Dr. Holloway is said to have provided cabins for patients on the premises, though these cabins are now gone. The sanitarium closed in the 1930s shortly after Duke Hospital opened, but Rivermont water was sold in the Durham area for many years.



¹ Eno River Calendar for 1978, February.

ROSE OF SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SR 1484, Durham vicinity



A large Victorian cemetery behind the Rose of Sharon Baptist Church has gravestones that date from the 1880s for such families as the Ferrells, Garrards, Dunnagans, Rogers, and Walkers. Two of the oldest markers are for Mary Walker who died in 1881 and Lavinia Walker who died in 1884.

RUSSELL SCHOOL

CA. 1920 (SL)

(Formerly called the CAINS SCHOOL)

SR 1002, Lebanon vicinity



Built with financial aid and plans provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, this weatherboarded frame building appears on the 1920 Wells and Brinkley Map as the Russell School for Colored. The school was constructed according to Rosenwald's two-teacher plan, and retains its original rectangular, one-story, gable-fronted block with recessed entrances flanking a projecting central bay. Banks of large nine-over-nine sash windows on the front and sides of the building are placed in accordance with Rosenwald's instructions for maximizing natural lighting and ventilation. The building has been used recently as a community center.

DURHAM COUNTY HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY

NORTHWEST DURHAM QUADRANT